



July 23, 2001

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the Service Employees International Union, I urge you to vote for the Ganske-Dingell-Norwood-Berry Patient Protection Act, H.R. 2563, and against H.R. 2315, introduced by Rep. Ernest Fletcher.

The Ganske-Dingell-Norwood-Berry Patient Protection Act, H.R. 2563, is the only truly comprehensive bipartisan patient protection bill that addresses the concerns that many working families have about the failure of managed care plans to pay for the health services we need. Unlike the Fletcher bill, the Ganske-Dingell-Norwood-Berry bill would:

- Provide protections for all Americans in private health plans, including local and state government employees.
- Provide true access to emergency services, specialists, continuity of care, and clinical trials.
- Provide for an internal and an independent external appeals process that ensures a timely process for consumers when critical health care is denied.
- Hold plans accountable when decisions to withhold or limit care result in injury or death.

Additionally, unlike the Fletcher bill, the Ganske-Dingell-Norwood-Berry bill includes a vitally important patient advocacy provision. As a union representing over 710,000 frontline health workers, we know how important it is to protect health care workers who speak out against patient care deficiencies. Employers must be prohibited from firing or retaliating against workers who act as advocates on behalf of their patients.

Working families want meaningful, comprehensive managed care reform. We urge you to pass a real Patients' Bill of Rights. We are counting on you to vote for the Ganske-Dingell-Norwood-Berry Patient Protection Act, H.R. 2563, and against the Fletcher bill.

Sincerely,

Andrew L. Stern  
International President

ALS:mg

opeiu#2  
afl-cio, clc

ANDREW L. STERN  
International President

ANNA BURGER  
International Secretary-Treasurer

PATRICIA ANN FORD  
Executive Vice President

ELISEO MEDINA  
Executive Vice President

TOM WOODRUFF  
Executive Vice President

SERVICE EMPLOYEES  
INTERNATIONAL UNION  
AFL-CIO, CLC

1313 L Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005

202.898.3200  
TDD: 202.898.3481  
www.SEIU.org